



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

4 AUGUST 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – Arson Suspect Arrested in Connection with Vegetation Fire on I-80

(U) Russell Gillett was arrested in connection to the vegetation fire that burned east of Madison Avenue. Firefighters say the fire burned an area approximately 200 feet by 50 feet along the interstate, damaging a section of fence and affecting residential properties. Multiple witnesses reportedly told CHP they saw a person a few feet from the fire who ran from the scene. That information led arson investigators and CHP units to Gillett. He is charged with felony arson to a structure or forest land, arson to property, as well as possession of narcotics.

SOURCE: 3 August 2020, [CBS Sacramento](#)

(U) Sacramento – Probation Officers Seize Large Amounts of Ammunition and Drugs

(U) A 34-year-old Sacramento man is facing multiple felony charges after the Sacramento County Probation Gang Suppression Unit and the Sacramento Police Department seized a gun and large amounts of ammunition and drugs. Thao Vang was out on bail for drug charges in Butte County when authorities served a search warrant at his residence in the 2000 block of South Avenue on Friday, according to a news release. The departments found an assault rifle, more than 3,000 rounds of ammunition, two high-capacity magazines, methamphetamine, and more than 900-grams of marijuana.

SOURCE: 2 August 2020, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – US Border Patrol Seizes Nearly 500-Pounds of Marijuana

(U) Edinburg – Border Patrol agents seized nearly 500-pounds of marijuana on Sunday. The first incident occurred after a report of a suspicious red four-door sedan traveling north of the Rio Grande. Agents arrested the driver and passenger and discovered more than 141-pounds of marijuana, worth more than \$112K, inside the sedan. That same evening, Falfurrias agents working at the checkpoint referred another vehicle for secondary inspection, which led to the discovery of 87-pounds of marijuana in a false compartment worth more than \$69K. A few hours later, agents in Rio Grande City witnessed several drug smugglers abandon drugs and run back towards the river. Agents secured over 234-pounds of marijuana worth more than \$187K. All the smugglers swam back to Mexico. Border Patrol processed the subjects and cases accordingly.

SOURCE: 3 August 2020, [US CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Mystery Seeds Illegally Sent from China Identified

(U) Washington – The US Department of Agriculture has identified some of the plant species in bags of unsolicited seeds arriving in mailboxes across the US. Officials have warned the shipments of mystery seeds, which appear to have originated in China, could be invasive plant species. So far, however, the species appear to be innocuous. At least 14 of the seed species had been identified to include mustard, cabbage, morning glory, as well as herbs like mint, sage, rosemary, and lavender. He said hibiscus and

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roses were also found. Residents in all 50 states have reported receiving the suspicious packages of seeds. The USDA said if you receive the packets of seeds, do not plant them and contact your state plant regulatory official.

SOURCE: 4 August 2020, [CBS](#)

(U) Illinois – Chicago Businesses Report Up to \$66 Million Loss Resulting from Looting and Civil Unrest

(U) Chicago – Local businesses reported \$66 million worth of damaged or stolen property to police during the looting and civil unrest, according to public records. Up to 1,800 police reports were filed for looting or vandalism across the city. Chicago has announced a total of \$6 million dollars in grant funding so far, through the Together Now Fund for businesses impacted by COVID-19 or the looting and vandalism earlier this summer.

SOURCE: 3 August 2020, [WBBM](#)

(U) Oregon – Man Charged with Assaulting US Marshal with Explosive Device During Protest

(U) Portland – Isaiah Jason Maza, Jr., 18, of Portland, has been charged with assaulting a federal officer with a dangerous weapon and willfully damaging government property during protests at the Mark O. Hatfield US Courthouse on 22 July 2020. According to court documents, in the early morning hours of 22 July, a group of individuals gathered in an exterior entryway of the Courthouse. Several members of the group, including Maza made multiple attempts to breach boarded windows of the Courthouse. After making entry, Maza carried a cylindrical object towards the building, then appeared to light a fuse connected to the object and place it inside the broken window. The device exploded in close proximity to law enforcement officers exiting the building through the broken window. A deputy US Marshal sustained injuries to both his legs as a result of the blast. On 31 July, deputy US Marshals spotted Maza less than one block from the courthouse. Maza ran from the deputy marshals who pursued him several blocks by foot before catching and arresting him.

SOURCE: 3 August 2020, [US DOJ](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – Man Fires at Police with AK-47 After Refusing to Wear Mask

(U) Bethlehem – When a cigar shop clerk told Adam Zaborowski on Friday that he had to wear a mask in the shop, the 35-year-old angrily refused. Instead, he grabbed two cigars, stormed outside and then pulled a handgun and shot at the clerk, Bethlehem Township police said. The next day, cornered near his home, Zaborowski allegedly fired at police with an AK-47, sparking a shootout with at least seven officers that ended with him shot multiple times and under arrest. The case is the latest violent incident tied to arguments over mandatory mask orders.

SOURCE: 3 August 2020, [SF Gate](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mexico – Unidentified Gunmen Kill Journalist and Police Guard in Southern Mexico

(U) Mexico City – Unidentified gunmen killed a journalist in southern Mexico on Sunday along with a police officer assigned to protect him after a 2016 attack. Pablo Morrugares was the fifth journalist to be killed in Mexico this year, in attacks which are increasingly killing police guards assigned to the victims. More than 140 journalists have been killed over the past 20 years. The prosecutors' office in Guerrero state said Morrugares and a state police officer were at a restaurant when they were killed in a hail of bullets Sunday. Authorities found 55 shell casings from assault rifles at the scene in the city of Iguala. The killers apparently opened fire from a passing vehicle.

SOURCE: 3 August 2020, [AP](#)

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(U) United Kingdom – Classified US-UK Trade Documents Stolen by Suspected Russian Hackers

(U) London – Classified US-UK trade documents leaked ahead of Britain's 2019 election were stolen from the email account of a former trade minister by suspected Russian hackers, media reported Monday. The hackers reportedly accessed the account multiple times between 12 July and 21 October in 2019. Sources declined to name which Russian group or organization they believed was responsible but said the attack bore the hallmarks of a state-backed operation. Among the stolen information were six tranches of documents detailing British trade negotiations with the United States, which were leaked and disseminated online by a Russian disinformation campaign.
SOURCE: 3 August 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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